(d) There was no preference for old connection in comparison to the new connections. However the capacity left un-utilized because of subscriber not ready to take connection was used for converting certain old numbers of strowger exchange to electronic exchange. Preference was given to following categories of old connections for conversion to electronic exchange.

PCO's, essential public utility telephones, Govt. connections with public utility, one telephone out of three telephones working at the same premises, Two telephones out of five telephones working in the same premises and connections on Technical grounds like provision of STD and bad performance etc.

(e) Connections were given from strowger exchange only when the capacity of E-10B exchange was exhausted. These connections were not bulk release, but committed cases or out of turn connections.

(f) There is no geenral complaint of subscriber of non-electronic exchange. However the number of complaints is more in non-electronic exhange than in electronic exchange. It is not correct to say that the subscriber has to dial five call to get one number.

(g) The new policy about connecting certain number from strowger exchange to electronic exhange will be formulated only after the commissioning of 5000 lines eletronic exchange expansion which is expected during 1990-91.

Corruption in Doordarshan

249. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any evidence of corruption in Doordarshan as stated by him in his interview in 'India Week' weekly issue of 30th January, 1990;

(b) whether he has initiated steps to recover lakhs of Rupees from the Doordarshan officials who had taken bribe in clearing serials and tele films and whether any action has been taken against them; and

(c) what is the basis of the information given by him to Press and whether any of these serials have been rejected?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) Allegations/complaints against the officials/staff of Doordarshan are examined in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. The report appearing in 'India Week' of 2-8 February 1990 does not specify any particular officer/staff of Doordarshan. However, some vague and unsubstantiated allegations continue to be made regarding selection of serials. A Screening Committee has therefore, been constituted to review programmes selected for telecast by Doordarshan. The review work is in progress.

Speculations in News Telecast by Doordarshan

250. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan News telecast on the 25th February, 1990 speculated that the Congress (I) will lose power in all the states and whether this is in keeping with the guidelines issued by Government regarding the National News;

(b) whether the Election Commission of India has reprimanded the Ministry regarding the deliberate attempt by Doordarshan officials to pre-judge the election results and indulge in wrong propaganda; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the erring officials and whether Government propose to initiate fresh guidelines to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) Doordarshan had telecast a news story fed by PTI-TV on 25-2-1990 which carried predictions about the likely results in elections to some State Assemblies. The protest lodged by the said party to the Election Commission was conveyed to Doordarshan by the Commission. An enquiry was ordered even before the Congress (I) protested against the telecast. Since presentation of such forecasts did not conform to the guidelines issued by the Government, the erring officials have been reprimanded and guidelines have once again been brought to the notice of all officers dealing with news. Issue of any fresh guidelines is not considered necessary.

Request for increase in Freedom Fighters pension

251. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Zone Freedom-Fighters Association has requested Government to enhance the pension to Rs. 1000 per month in view of the ever increasing rise in the prices of essential commodities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Association has also requested Government to grant Rs. 2000 to the family of deceased freedom fighter for the post-obit ceremonies; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No such demand from South Zone Freedom-Fighters Association has so far been received by Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of (a).

Development of surface transport in Andhra Pradesh

252. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have sent any proposals to Central Government for coordinated development of surface transport in the State; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have been from time to time projecting the requirements for construction and development of certain roads, canals etc. The important projects referred to by them have been the construction of coastal road from Tada to Itchapuram, development of existing National Highways conversion of some State roads as National Highways, development of four canals viz. Kakinada, Eluru, Commamur and Buckingam, Circular Railway or Mono Rail from Hyderabad City. There has however been no specific proposal for inter-modal coordinated development.

Commissioning of high power TV transmitter at Tirupati

253. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the progress made to commission high power T.V. Transmitter at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND